

FCC REPORTS NETWORK NEWS 6:30 DECEMBER 16-31 PART 2

12/16/09

ECONOMY LATEST

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ- NUEVA YORK

PKG 2:15

The Commerce Department said housing starts increased 8.9 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 574,000 units. Analysts polled by Reuters had expected housing starts to rise to 580,000 units. However, the percentage increase last month was the largest since May, indicating housing remained on a steady recovery path. October's housing starts were revised downwards to 527,000 units from the previously reported 529,000 units. Compared to the same period a year-ago, housing starts were down 12.4 percent, but way off the 54.9 percent decline seen in January.

BILL TO CREATE JOBS

LOURDES MELUZA- WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:06

The US House of Representatives, tackling sky-high unemployment on the cusp of an election year, will vote Wednesday on a new jobs bill, Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Tuesday. She said at a press conference with other Democratic House leaders. The package will include infrastructure projects and aid to states to help them avoid layoffs of critical public-sector workers including police, teachers and emergency workers, at a price tag of about 75 billion dollars.

IMMIGRATION ASYLUM

VO: 23

The Obama administration says it will stop detaining asylum seekers who have a credible fear of persecution in their home countries. Immigration and Customs Enforcement director John Morton says beginning Jan. 4, asylum seekers can temporarily enter the U.S. if they meet certain criteria. They must establish their identities, they cannot be dangerous or a flight risk, and they must have a credible fear of persecution or torture.

12/17/09

MORE JOBLESS CLAIMS

LOURDES DEL RIO- MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG 1:52

The number of newly laid off workers filing claims for unemployment benefits unexpectedly rose last week as the recovery of the nation's battered labor market proceeds in fits and starts. The Labor Department said Thursday that the number of new jobless claims rose to 480,000 last week, up 7,000 from the previous week. That was a worse performance than the decline to 465,000 that economists had expected.

HEALTH CARE LATEST

VO: 23

The White House and its allies scrambled Thursday to quash a growing liberal assault on a much-compromised health care proposal, hoping to keep President Barack Obama's top domestic priority from being crushed between the political left and right.

12/18/09

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASYLUM
BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ. NEW YORK
PKG 1:56

The Obama administration is crafting regulations to allow entry by other victims of domestic violence who feel they have no choice but to flee their homelands to protect themselves.

IMMIGRANT DAY
JAIME GARCIA. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
PKG 2:03

In honor of International Migrant Day, a lawyer, a comedian, a dentist, a nonprofit organization chief, a mother, a councilman, a school board member, a printer, a student, a chef, and a writer, among eighteen every-day Angelenos to be recognized by community leaders and community members. In 2000 the United Nations declared December 18 as International Migrants Day, a day to acknowledge the human rights, essential freedoms, and wealth of contributions immigrants make worldwide

12/19/09

6:30 & 11:30 SHOWS

HEALTHCARE LATEST
VO: 24

U.S. Senate Democrats reached a compromise Saturday with holdout Senator Ben Nelson that secured the 60 votes they need to pass the broad healthcare overhaul sought by President Barack Obama. Nelson said a long day of negotiating on Friday concluded with an agreement that meets his goal of ensuring federal funds are not used to pay for abortions under the bill. The plan that we've put together here, that we have agreement on, in fact walls off that money in an effective manner," Nelson told reporters, pledging to back final passage and support Democrats on upcoming votes to clear Republican procedural hurdles.

OBAMA HEALTHCARE
VO: 21

President Barack Obama says he thinks the country is on the cusp of making health care reform a reality. Obama spoke at the White House on Saturday not long after Senate Democratic leaders secured the support of Nebraska's Ben Nelson to provide the 60th and deciding vote for health care legislation. He called Saturday's development a major step forward in extending coverage to the uninsured and saving money for businesses and the government in the long term. Obama also said that overhauling the nation's health care system will save lives.

GROUP DELAY DEPORTATIONS
LUIS MEGID. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
PKG 1:58

There are 12 million illegal immigrants in the USA. Activists call for an overhaul of immigration law that would offer them a way to earn legal status. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., introduced a bill Tuesday that would give illegal immigrants who pay fines, pass background checks and meet other requirements a path toward legal residency. College students who are illegal immigrants fall under a separate proposal called the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act - the DREAM Act. Requirements would include arrival in the USA at 15 or younger, a five-year residency or more, and at least two years of college or military service. Versions of the act have been introduced since 2001 without success.

12/20/09

6:30 & 11:30 SHOWS

HEALTHCARE LATEST LOURDES DEL RIO. IN HOUSE

PKG 1:58

In the run-up to a crucial make-or-break vote on health care legislation, lawmakers are stepping up their rhetoric. Republican Sen. Tom Coburn called Democratic deal making to get the 60 votes needed to pass the bill "corruption." On the Senate floor, Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse responded by saying Republicans have embarked on a "no-holds barred mission of propaganda, obstruction and fear." Under Senate rules, Democrats need 60 votes on three separate occasions to pass the measure, the first of which is set for about 1 a.m. Monday. Democrats say Sen. Ben Nelson's announcement yesterday that he'd support the measure gave them the 60 votes they need.

H1N1 LATEST BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ. NEW YORK

PKG 1:57

U.S. health officials said this week that 100 million doses of H1N1 vaccine were now available or had been delivered and urged everyone to get vaccinated. H1N1 could still peak again and could also mutate into a more dangerous form. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 47 million Americans have been infected with H1N1, nearly 10,000 have been killed by it and more than 200,000 hospitalized. While the severity appears somewhat milder than seasonal flu, which kills an estimated 36,000 people a year, most patients who die or have severe disease from swine flu are children or non-elderly adults.

12/21/09

HEALTH REFORM LATEST FERNANDO PIZARRO- Washington, DC

PKG 2:19

Senate Democrats won a crucial test vote on President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, putting them on track for passage before Christmas of the historic legislation to remake the nation's medical system and cover 30 million uninsured. All 58 Democrats and the Senate's two independents held together early Monday against unanimous Republican opposition, providing the exact 60-40 margin needed to shut down a threatened GOP filibuster. The vote came shortly after 1 a.m.

WHITE HOUSE ON TRACK TRIMMING COSTS

VO 0:45

An Obama administration program is on track to slice \$40 billion from U.S. government spending on outside contractors. Under a two-year plan announced in March, President Barack Obama asked government departments and agencies to save \$40 billion in contracting costs by the fiscal year ending on Sept. 30, 2011, by improving management of contracts and ending unnecessary ones.

FBI - MURDER FALLS 10%

VO 0:45

The FBI says murders fell 10 percent across the country in the first half of 2009. Overall violent crimes fell by 4.4 percent, and property crimes also dropped, by 6.1 percent. The figures are compiled from data supplied to the FBI by more than 11,700 police and law enforcement agencies across the country. They compare the first six months of this year to the first six months of last year. Violent crime fell about 7 percent in cities with 1 million or more people. But in towns with 10,000 to 25,000 people, violent crime ticked up slightly by 1.7 percent.

LABOR DEPT SURGE HIRING TEMPORARY WORKERS

VO 0:18

The hiring of temporary workers has surged, suggesting that the nation's employers might soon take the next step, bringing on permanent workers. As demand rose after the last two recessions, in the early 1990s and in 2001, employers moved more quickly. They added temps for only two or three months before stepping up the hiring of permanent workers. Now temp hiring has risen for four months.

12/22/09

HEALTH CARE LATEST

FERNANDO PIZARRO - Washington, DC

PKG 2:16

U.S. Senate Democrats cleared the second of three 60-vote hurdles on President Barack Obama's healthcare overhaul Tuesday, moving the landmark legislation one step closer to passage by Christmas. For the second consecutive day, Democrats mustered 60 party-line votes to cut off debate on the healthcare reform bill and move toward final passage over unanimous Republican opposition.

OBAMA MEETING WITH BANKERS

LUIS MEGID - San Francisco, California

PKG 1:53

President Barack Obama will discuss the economy, lending to small businesses and financial regulation when he sits down at the White House with representatives of a dozen small and community banks. Obama scheduled Tuesday's session as a follow-up to a similar meeting he held last week with some of the nation's top bankers. At that meeting, Obama implored bankers to help keep the fragile recovery from faltering by increasing lending to small businesses and supporting a rewrite of financial regulations.

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

JAIME GARCIA - Los Angeles, California

PKG 2:08

Federal prosecutions reached a record high in the 2009 fiscal year, with the surge driven by a sharp increase in cases filed against immigration violators. The 169,612 federal prosecutions were a jump of nearly 9 percent from the previous year, according to Department of Justice data analyzed by a research center at Syracuse University. Immigration prosecutions were up nearly 16 percent, and made up more than half of all criminal cases brought by the federal government, the report said.

12/23/09

HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL

FERNANDO PIZARRO - Washington, DC

PKG 2:22

Senate Democrats are expected to have the 60 votes they need today to cut off debate on the health care bill. That will set the stage for approving the bill tomorrow. Today's test is the final time 60 votes will be needed. The legislation itself can pass with a simple majority. President Barack Obama's health care overhaul cleared its second 60-vote test.

IMMIGRATION RAIDS INCREASE

SALVADOR DURAN - Los Angeles, CA

PKG 2:03

As Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) led raids continue unabated across the country, community based organizations, organized labor, immigration law and policy experts, and religious groups have called on the U.S. Department of Justice to immediately cease and initiate a comprehensive investigation into the dramatic rise in immigration raids & check points across the southland. The raids are generating mass panic in targeted immigrant communities right in the middle of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

12/24/09

**HEALTH REFORM PASSES SENATE
FERNANDO PIZARRO, WASHINGTON, DC
PKG 2:27**

There's some more compromising to do, before President Barack Obama will have a health care reform package to sign. The one that was approved by the Senate today differs from the House version -- although the White House says they're "95 percent" similar. Democrats in the House and Senate vow to finish their work early in the New Year. The Senate passed its version today on a 60-39 vote, following 24 days of floor debate. President Barack Obama is looking forward to signing what he calls "the most important piece of social legislation since Social Security." Obama has been offering congratulations by phone to senators who worked to pass health care reform -- and to Vicki Kennedy, whose late husband Ted had made health care his life's work in the Senate.

12/25/09

**HEALTHCARE COMPARISON
BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ. NEW YORK
PKG 2:05**

About 94 percent of legal residents under age 65 -- compared with 83 percent now. Government subsidies to help buy coverage start in 2014. Of the remaining 24 million people under age 65 left uninsured, about one-third would be illegal immigrant. Medicare payroll tax increased to 2.35 percent on income over \$200,000 a year for individuals, \$250,000 for couples.

**YOUNG AND STEROIDS
CRISITNA PUIG. MIAMI, FLORIDA
PKG 3:11**

Despite the attention on steroids and professional athletes, most medical experts are more concerned about the drugs' impact on younger users. On Monday, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a new policy statement condemning the use of steroids among children and adolescents. The doctors' group called on parents and coaches to take a stand against performance-enhancing drugs and "win-at-all costs" thinking.

12/26/09

6:30 & 11:30

**IMMIGRATION AND HARD TIME
BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ. NEW YORK
PKG 1:46**

The Obama administration said last week that it would begin a major push for immigration reform this year. The country's two big labor federations just announced that they are joining forces to support that effort, which includes a path to citizenship for undocumented workers. That's double good news. The administration is saying that it will keep its promise to fix the broken system, even if it means pushing the hottest of hot buttons: legalization, the dreaded "amnesty" that sets the Republican right wing ablaze and makes many Democrats quiver.

EDUCATION AND HEART ATTACK

VO: 23

More education may mean a lower heart attack risk later in life, with benefits seen in low-income countries as well as wealthy nations, a new study finds. A number of studies in Western countries have found a link between higher socioeconomic status and lower heart disease risk. However, studies measure socioeconomic status in various ways -- by people's education or current job or current family income, for instance -- and it is not clear whether all of those factors are equally important.

12/28/09

TRAVEL SECURITY

LOURDES DEL RIO, MIAMI, FL

PKG 2:25

Passengers are facing longer lines at checkpoints and less freedom to move around airplanes during flights. Leisure travelers, such as the families that packed airports to return home after the holiday, are likely to put up with the new inconveniences. Alarmed by the prospect of losing their best customers, airlines are already asking federal officials to make any new procedures palatable to passengers.

12/29/09

PLANE BOMB INVESTIGATION

LOURDES MELUZA, WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:21

President Barack Obama said Tuesday that the intelligence community had bits of information that should have been pieced together that would have triggered "red flags" and possibly prevented the Christmas Day attempted terror attack on a Detroit-bound airliner. Officials said Obama chose to make a second statement in as many days because a morning briefing offered him new information in the government's possession about the suspect's activities.

EMPLOYERS HIRING 2010

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ, DC

PKG 2:12

Employers expect to hire more new workers in 2010 than they did in 2009, a sign the recession may be easing its grip, research showed on Tuesday. One-fifth of employers plan to add full-time, permanent employees next year, up from 14 percent in 2009, an online jobs site that surveyed more than 2,700 hiring managers and human resource professionals. Just 9 percent said they plan to cut head count in 2010, down from 16 percent in 2009, according to the nationwide survey.

TYLENOL RECALL

LOURDES DEL RIO, MIAMI, FL

PKG 1:35

A voluntary recall of Tylenol Arthritis Pain Caplets is being expanded because of consumer reports of an unusual moldy odor with the 100-count bottles, the U.S. Food and Drug administration said. The FDA said it and Johnson & Johnson were expanding the recall to all available product lots of the pain caplets with the distinctive red EZ-open cap. Health effects of the compound have not been well studied, but the events reported to the company have been temporary and not serious.

12/30/09

**LATEST PLANE BOMB INVESTIGATION
LOURDES MELUZA, WASHINGTON, DC
PKG 1:59**

President Barack Obama says the intelligence community had information that it should have been pieced together before the Christmas Day attempted terror attack on a Detroit-bound airliner. Obama says the security system failed to connect the dots. He's due an early report from his homeland security and counterterrorism adviser tomorrow on how a man with suspected ties to al-Qaida was able to board the Northwest Airlines flight with explosives.

**PUSH FOR BODY SCANNERS
BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ, NEW YORK
PKG 2:21**

High-tech security scanners that might have prevented the Christmas Day attempt to blow up a jetliner have been installed in only a small number of airports around the world, in large part because of privacy concerns over the machines' capability to see through clothing. The body-scanning technology is in at least 19 US airports, while European officials have generally limited it to test runs

**NEW ID REGULATIONS
LOURDES DEL RIO MIAMI, FL
PKG 2:27**

Starting Jan. 1, Florida drivers will have to meet beefed-up identity-verification requirements in order to renew their driver's license or obtain a new one. If you are renewing, you are allowed a ``convenience" renewal by mail or via the Internet between office visits. Old driver's license will no longer be accepted as a primary proof of identity. The following will be needed: a government-issued birth certificate, a valid U.S. passport, federally issued citizenship or naturalization documents, or consular reports of a birth overseas.

**WHITE HOUSE IMMIGRATION BATTLE
JAIME GARCIA LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
PKG 2:13**

With the healthcare battle still unfinished, the Obama administration has been laying plans to take up an issue that could prove even more divisive -- a major overhaul of the nation's immigration system. Senior White House aides privately have assured Latino activists that the president will back legislation next year to provide a path to citizenship for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants living in the United States.

**CENSUS PROJECTION FIGURES
VO 0:22**

As the U.S. Census Bureau gears up to make an actual count of the U.S. population on April 1, it estimates that the final figure will be 308,400, 408, representing an increase of 0.9% over 2009. The bureau says one birth is expected to occur every eight seconds in the United States and one death every 12 seconds. Net international migrations add one person every 37 seconds to the U.S. population. By combining those figures, the bureau estimates that the population grows by one person every 14 seconds.

12/31/09

IMMIGRANT PROSECUTIONS

O/C :20

Immigration prosecutions rose to record levels in 2009 as the Obama administration kept up aggressive enforcement that began under President George W. Bush. Nearly 27,000 people faced serious federal charges relating to immigration in 2009, according to Chief Justice John Roberts' annual year-end report on the judiciary. More than three-fourths were accused of illegally re-entering the United States after having been sent home before. Immigration cases increased by about a fifth over the previous year and made up a third of all new criminal filings in U.S. district courts in the government spending year that ended Sept. 30. The statistics were compiled by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

IMMIGRATION 2009

JAIME GARCIA / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:00

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OBAMA PRELIMINARY REPORT ON SECURITY

LOURDES MELUZA, WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:18

President Barack Obama is to receive a preliminary report Thursday on how a 23-year-old Nigerian with suspected terrorist ties managed to board a plane he is accused of attempting to bomb on Christmas Day, along with recommendations on how to prevent a sequel. The report is just the first step in what is shaping up to be an Obama-led effort to change the nation's intelligence practices after an attack that failed not because of U.S.

=====END OF REPORT=====